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NEWS RELEASE

April 22, 1999

Contact: Lisa Stolarski, UM chapter of Amnesty International, 543-9390.

HUMAN RIGHT ACTIVIST SPEAKS AT UM

MISSOULA-

A South African poet and human rights activist will speak at The University of Montana May 1. Dennis Brutus will give a speech titled "Still Struggling for Freedom: Global Debt and the Politics of Neocolonialism" at 8 p.m. in Urey Lecture Hall.

Brutus will speak on behalf of Jubilee 2000, a worldwide effort to cancel the massive debt owed by Third World nations to the Monetary Fund and World Bank. As a former political prisoner and exile under South Africa's apartheid regime, he will speak firsthand about the power of international solidarity to help achieve social and political change.

A professor of English and African American Studies at the University of Pittsburgh, Brutus has published 12 books of poetry. In 1987 he received the Langston Hughes Award for his writing.

He was a founder of the South African Non-racial Olympic Committee in the early 1960s, for which he was jailed and eventually exiled from South Africa. Brutus is now on the board of Amnesty International USA, a spokesman for Jubilee 2000 and a vocal supporter of African-American activist and death row inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal.

His visit is being sponsored by the Missoula Coalition to Free Mumia, the UM chapter of Amnesty International, the Diversity Advisory Council and the Associated Students of UM.

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